

350 employees. The people of Medicine Hat are indeed grateful to the company for having built in that locality. The plant uses 7 million cubic feet of natural gas and 135 tons of molten sulphur daily. These materials are found right in southern Alberta, the sulphur being a by-product extracted from wet gas before it enters the pipe line. The company also uses daily 400 tons of phosphate rock, which comes from the mines of Montana. The plant produces a brand of fertilizer that is proving to be a great blessing in many parts of the world.

While it is true that the long cycle of dry years has been succeeded by a few years when there has been more moisture, the records over a long period show that moisture from the sky alone is uncertain and that irrigation is necessary. It is a fact that crops grown from irrigated land differ from those grown on dry land. Root crops, fruits, vegetables and many specialized crops can be grown on irrigated land. But what is needed is more factories to process these products which will provide a more balanced diet for Canadian people. Much has been accomplished in this respect, but much more is needed. With increased irrigation and more factories to process farm products, ranching and farming will become a more stable industry.

I am bound to say, honourable senators, that farmers today are not in a very happy position. Wheat, which ten years ago brought \$1.65 a bushel and upwards, now brings, when it can be sold, \$1.25 a bushel. Taking as the base the figure 100, the products which the farmer has to sell have come down to 90 and in some cases lower, while the commodities which he has to buy have gone up to 120 and in some instances 140. Thus the farmer is pinched between the two sets of prices.

There are in Canada 610,000 farm families; of that number, only 39,000 pay income tax, or about 7 out of 100. I want here to make a plea for more humane, helpful and kindly treatment of the farmer by the income tax collector. Some of the collectors are even abusive, and hint that the farmer is dishonest, when all it amounts to is a lack of knowledge on his part and inadequate records. The tax collector comes along with files ranging over the past 10 or 12 years, and of course the farmer who does not have records that far back is bewildered. The advantages are all on the side of the tax collector: he can go back over an unlimited number of years, while the farmer can go back over only a very limited period. If he happens to have overpaid his tax in a previous year he has no recourse. Some of the collectors are woefully lacking in their knowledge of farming practices. I believe that farmers generally would

be happier if a more humane and kindly method of collecting income taxes were adopted.

Honourable senators, I have just one more subject to discuss briefly in closing. Through automobile accidents a life is lost every 15 minutes and an injury sustained every 30 seconds. We in Canada have our share, for over any weekend one may read of 25, 30 or 40 lives being lost in automobile accidents. In Canada some 2,500 persons are killed every year, and about 40,000 injured; of the injured, 10 per cent have some permanent disability.

I believe motorcar accidents are one of the greatest problems of modern times. Reckless driving is a sin; indeed, a greater sin than is commonly thought. Highway accidents create a terrible situation: hospitals in this country are for the most part filled. So many accident cases come in from the highway that some of the injured have to be cared for in the corridors. Great expense and human suffering are involved; homes are saddened and left desolate.

Do we realize that the traffic accident is the sixth major cause of death, and is about the most common cause in persons under 28 years of age?

The present automobile is a pretty reliable machine, and roads generally are good. Therefore, most highway accidents are due to the personal element, which includes disregard for road signs and traffic regulations, as well as physical and mental deficiencies of drivers, and downright carelessness.

Speed is a big factor in 30 per cent of the accidents. Why, I read the other day that someone was driving an automobile at a rate of 105 miles an hour. The human system is not built to stand such a rate of speed. I have spoken before on what is called speed hypnosis, which means that a person is tensed up when going at a terrific speed so that he is not capable of quick action or of doing the right thing. Under those conditions there occurs a narrowing of the field of vision. Normally the peripheral vision is almost 180 degrees. If one is going at a fast rate of speed it narrows to about 40 degrees, and if a person has his eye diverted for a split second disaster may follow. In those circumstances there is often the whip-lash type of injury. When a car is going at a fast rate of speed and suddenly stops, the person in it keeps on going, the body is obstructed but the head goes forward, the result being death or permanent paralysis and injury to the nerves.

Then, of course, some accidents are caused by fatigue or alcohol. If the alcohol content of the blood is more than .15 per cent the